



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief August 2018

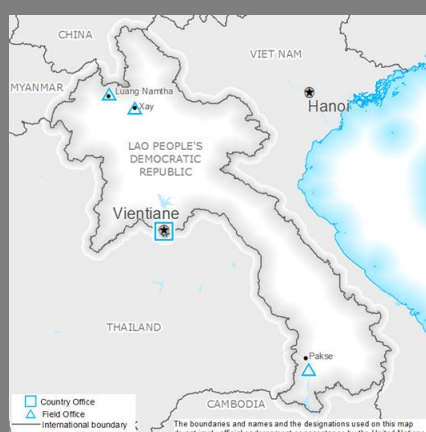


Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 138 out of 188 countries in the 2016 Human Development Index. It has one of the lowest population densities in Asia. 28 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (USD 1.25/day), with a gross national income per capita of USD 1,740 (World Bank 2015). The country is ranked 64 out of 144 in the Global Gender Gap Index 2017.

While Lao PDR has managed to reduce the proportion of hungry poor to 23 percent, the 2015 Global Hunger Index still rates hunger levels as "serious".

Climate change is a key challenge facing rural livelihoods, and the country is the world's 73rd most vulnerable to climate change due to its low adaptability and its dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources. Changing climate patterns, combined with poor access to both markets and diverse livelihoods, further worsen the situation in remote upland areas, where 25 percent of households are food insecure. WFP has been present in Lao PDR since 1975.



Population: **6.5 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **138 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

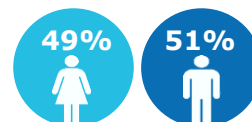
Chronic malnutrition: **35.6% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

10 metric tons of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0 six months (September-February) net funding requirements

16,766 people assisted
in August 2018



Operational Updates

- Tropical Storms caused heavy rains and flooding in 79 districts of 14 provinces across Lao PDR. According to the Government, over 80,000 families have been affected. In response, the UN Logistics Cluster, led by WFP, was activated and provided logistics support.
- The Government of Australia contributed US\$ 338,000 to support flood-affected communities in Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province. This generous contribution will support the immediate food needs of the affected population including the purchase of rice, oil, and specialised nutritious foods for children under five years and pregnant and lactating mothers.
- WFP cluster support included logistical and infrastructure analysis such as road access, commercial transport availability, and warehousing of relief supplies. The cluster has provided space at WFP's Vientiane warehouse, including the installation of one Mobile Storage Unit. Additionally, one Mobile Storage Unit was donated to the Government in Attapeu and set up for the storage of relief goods. Alongside the provision of warehousing has been knowledge transfer on proper storage techniques and inventory management.
- A joint rapid assessment was undertaken 13-16 August by the Government, FAO, Oxfam and WFP. Findings confirmed flooding-displaced people in Sanamxay lost their key livelihoods and reported significant losses of livestock and agriculture. The assessment indicates no acute food security issues, as people are receiving food assistance, however, the situation could change rapidly should rains continue to affect distribution of food commodities.

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Photo: WFP/Vilakohne Sipaseuth

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Sep - Feb Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
85.02 m	32.01 m	0.00

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities
- Accelerate the implementation of the Government's plan of action of the school meals programme
- Support a national process for community and Government hand-over of the schools.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national levels by 2025.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue
- Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6 to 23 months
- Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas, by 2025.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance
- Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions
- Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters.

Monitoring

- School meals are suspended during summer break. However, distributions of supplementary nutritious food for children under two continued in villages. The shift of distribution points from district centres to villages has increased the coverage and the outreach of the programme.
- WFP co-hosted the Annual Review meeting for the National School Meals Program with the Ministry of Education and Sports. The meeting was attended by 55 total participants (19 female/36 male) comprised of field staff, provincial and district education authorities and the World Bank.
- Cash-based transfer training was held in Sing and Nga districts for 20 schools with 145 total participants (80 male/65 female)

Challenges

- Meeting the basic food needs of the flood-affected families will remain an ongoing challenge. There is an urgent need to solicit additional contributions of US\$ 550,000 to cover basic food needs for the next six months.
- The Government of Lao PDR has requested WFP's logistical support to improve their emergency response systems. A large volume of donated goods need registration mechanisms, warehouse management including mobile storage units, and improved coordination. The cost is estimated at US\$ 350,000. This institutional capacity building will reach beyond Sanamxay/Attapeu to serve flood-affected districts throughout the country.

Partnerships

WFP signed a partnership with Lao Airlines, initially focused on advocacy to highlight issues of malnutrition and food security. The 18 months-long agreement is the first time the airline has partnered with the UN.

Donors

USA, Australia, Japan, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, Government of Lao PDR, Private Donors